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Soviet razzle-dazzle

Ex-Red spy: How KGB corrupts us

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WASHINGTON—The KGB recruited dazzling Soviet women to work in the American Embassy in Moscow, and the skills required had more to do with seduction than typing or answering phones, a former top Soviet spy said yesterday.

"Most of the Soviet women at the embassy were beauties," said Stanislav Levchenko, who had been chief of KGB covert action in Tokyo when he defected in 1979.

When U.S. officials fired a couple of femmes fatales, the KGB sent over a new seductress who "looked even better," he said.

Lured Leathernecks

Two Soviet women, working two years ago as a telephone operator and a maid in the U.S. Embassy, allegedly seduced Marine guards Cpl. Arnold Bracy of Woodside, Queens, and Sgt. Clayton Lonetree of Chicago into spying for the Soviets.

Because of these sex-for-secrets success stories, Levchenko said in a speech yesterday, Soviet intelligence officials are steaming at a decision by their own top political leaders to bar Soviets from working in the U.S. Embassy.

The one-time KGB biggie, now a writer and lecturer, recalled also that in another case involving a Third World embassy in Moscow, a "particularly ugly" man worked in the communications room. KGB women went into action and the ugly Third Worlder "lost his mind in a few hours."

While he was distracted, a Soviet black-bag team, "whose sole job is to do embassy break-ins," went to work stealing communications secrets.

But Soviet embassy employees are being replaced by Americans as a result of the Soviet ban, making it a bit tougher for the Soviets to carry out their spying missions.